

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 8 and 18 are active.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate claims 4-7.

Claim 8 is amended to incorporate claims 17, 19 and 21 and to fix the noted typo of "t10" to --10--.

Claim 18 is amended to change it's dependency to claim 8.

No new matter is added.

Contrary to the position taken in the rejection applied under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, the specification does support the reaction in the absence of hydrogen chloride as was and is provided in the claims.

See page 3, lines 3-7:

Under these circumstances, the present invention has an object of providing a process for producing adamantanes by using a solid catalyst, wherein high-purity adamantanes are efficiently produced in an industrially advantageous process in which hydrogen chloride is not used in the isomerization reaction, without need for troublesome operations such as waste liquid treatment while suppressing product loss as low as possible.

See also Examples 1-4.

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

To address the obvious-type double patenting rejection citing U.S. 7,381,855, Applicants attach a Terminal Disclaimer.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-8, 12, 13 and 17-21 under 35 USC 103(a) citing Kojima is not applicable to the claims as presented in this paper.

Kojima does not describe or suggest the combination of steps (A)-(F) and the limitations (1)-(4) as defined in Claim 1 nor the combination of limitations (1)-(5) as defined in Claim 8.

Rather, Kojima describes the production of a hydrocarbon having an adamantane structure by isomerizing a tricyclic saturated hydrocarbon with ten or more carbons with a solid catalyst in the absence of hydrogen chloride (see [0001]).

The specification describes that by conducting the process as described and claimed herein, high-purity adamantanes with a solid catalyst are produced efficiently without using hydrochloric acid in an isomerization reaction and also without the need for troublesome operations such as waste liquid treatment while suppressing product loss as low as possible in an industrially advantageous process. According to the process of the present invention, high-purity adamantanes are efficiently produced in an industrially advantageous process, wherein the adamantanes obtained by using a solid catalyst are purified economically by crystallization treatment and without imposing environmental load. (see, INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY in the specification).

Further, the adamantane obtained in the reaction and concentration steps is directly purified by crystallization without a solvent with a yield of adamantane from 8-14 % by mass with a purity of 98% by mass (see (2) the purification in Examples 1-4). As a result of this innovation, additional equipment (e.g., tanks and pumps) for the solvent and distillation for recovery and recycling the solvent become unnecessary.

Kojima neither discloses nor suggests the combination of limitations in the claims nor the advantages that the claimed processes provide in the real-world of manufacturing adamantanes.

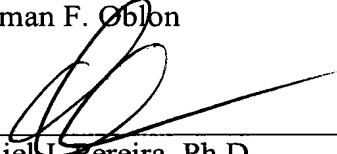
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

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Reply to Office Action of April 15, 2009

A Notice of Allowance is also requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



Daniel J. Pereira, Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 45,518

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

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